another insect, excepting the leaf-hoppers and the aculeate Hymenoptera, will almost certainly be a tachinid.

The R.E.S. Handbooks are intended to provide a service for amateur and professional entomologists, and so any comments or suggestions from possible future users of this particular volume are welcomed. — ROBERT BELSHAW, Diptera Section, Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

ATHENA EBENINA (MULSANT & REY) (COL.: STAPHYLINIDAE) IN PERTHSHIRE AND SURREY. — I found a female of this species near Loch Tummel, Perthshire on 1.v.81 among a large number of small beetles collected from moss around the stump of a birch tree which had recently been cut down and which was oozing sap. Attempts to capture examples at the same site in the following year by laying down fermenting fruit as a trap were unsuccessful. I found a male among a number of beetles extracted from flood debris collected from the banks of the river Mole at Burford Bridge, Surrey on 13.x.88.

A. ebenina was added to the British list on the basis of a single female specimen taken in Kincardineshire in September 1964 (Last, H. 1968 *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **104**: 285). I have been unable to find any other published records of its occurrence in Britain. The species occurs in Denmark, Scandinavia and central Europe but appears generally to be rare throughout its range. Last did not mention the habitat of his specimen but be reported that Dr Strand had found it in the Oslo district in flood refuse, in rotten fungi, at sap and in dove-droppings. Hansen (1954 in *Danmarks Fauna* **59**, p.264) refers to specimens being found in Denmark "in vegetable refuse on a cliff-face with numerous mouse-runs, in company with *Catops* and *Choleva*". Lohse (1974 in *Die Kafer Mitteleuropas* ed. Freude, H., Harde, K.W. and Lohse, G.A. Goeke & Evers, Krefeld) gives its habitat as rotting debris and mouse runs.

A. ebenina is approximately the size and shape of the commoner *A. xanthopus* (Thomson, C.G.), almost black in colour except for the elytra, antennae and labial palps which are very dark brown and the legs and mandibles which are light brown. The last joints of the antennae are relatively short and pointed. In both sexes, the hind edge of the sixth visible tergite is arcuate and crenulate, strongly in the male and rather weakly and only centrally in the female. These tergites are figured by Last. The spermatheca and the aedeagus, which are characteristic, are figured by Palm (1970 in *Svensk Insektfauna* **9** Coleoptera Fam. Staphylinidae pt 6 p.239).

It is perhaps of interest that the collection of specimens in which the female occurred also contained the first example of *Atheta hansseni* Strand to be recorded from Britain (Owen, J.A. 1983 *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **119**: 192).

I thank Dr M. Shaw for checking for me the Scottish Insect Records Index held in the Department of Natural History, National Museums of Scotland. — J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

ANASPIS BOHEMICA SCHILSKY (COL.: SCRAPTIIDAE) AT COYLUMBRIDGE. — *Anaspis bohemica* was added to the British list by my good friend Mr A.A. Allen (1975 *Ent. Rec.* **87**: 269) who discovered that this was the true identity of two *Anaspis* specimens given to him by the late G.H. Ashe. They had been beaten by Ashe from broom at Forest Lodge in Abernethy Forest on 22.vi.51 (Ashe, 1952, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **88**: 165) and had been labelled *A. hudsoni* Donisthorpe.

Apart from one possibility discussed later, no further captures of *A. bohemica* had been published by 1978 when I started to pay annual visits to Speyside. I kept an eye open for the species on every visit and, at times, sought it specifically, collecting large numbers of *Anaspis* specimens from rowan and other blossoms including bunches of umbels, thistles and other flowers set out in jars in the pine woods near Forest Lodge and around Loch Garten. I was never able to find broom growing around Forest Lodge and a resident who had lived near the Lodge for many years told me that be could not remember seeing it growing there. I set up jars with broom flowers (picked elsewhere) near the Lodge nevertheless and took a number of *Anaspis* from these. In all, I collected, over eight years, about 250 *Anaspis* specimens from Speyside, mainly in the Abernethy area, but all turned out on careful examination to be *frontalis* (Linnaeus) or *rufilabris* (Gyllenhal).

On 21.vi.86, however, my luck changed for, on a visit with my friend Mr R. Lyszkowski to the site of a clear-felled pine wood near Coylumbridge, about 12 km from Forest Lodge, I beat from dead pine branches an *Anaspis* which proved to be a female *bohemica*. It matches a male specimen, one of Ashe's captures kindly given to me by Mr Allen, and Mr Allen has examined my specimen and confirmed my identification. Female *Anaspis* specimens lack the abdominal features which characterise males but the general appearance of the specimen, together with the dark head, the dark first joint of the antennae, the cylindrical shape of antennal joints 6 - 10, the dark labial palps and the equal length of the spines at the apex of the middle tibiae leave no doubt as to its identity.

The possibility of an unpublished capture of the species arises from Mr Allen's observation (1975 *loc. cit.*) that Buck in his key to *Anaspis* (1954 *Hndbk. Identif. Brit. Insects* **5**, Pt. 9) figures for *hudsoni* abdominal appendages matching those of *rufilabris* but the aedeagus of *bohemica*. Now, at the time Buck produced his key (1954), there were apparently two species of *Anaspis* doing duty for *hudsoni* — *rufilabris* and *bohemica*. It seems that Buck, in making his drawings of *hudsoni*